

## Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 H-01 SY-04 INR-07 CIAE-00

SSO-00 /024 W

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R 051210Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6914

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 0226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC MA (REPPAS, GEORGE S)

SUBJECT: REPPAS APPEAL HEARD BY SUPREME COURT

REF: TANANARIVE 0207

1. SUPREME COURT HEARD APPEAL BY REPPAS LAWYER LEBEL IN 3-HOUR SESSION FEB 4. PRESIDENT OF COURT PLUS FOUR OTHER JUDGES, PROCUREUR GENERAL, ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY, LEBEL, REPPAS, AND CONSULAR OFFICER WERE PRESENT.

2. AFTER ONE HOUR SUMMATION OF FACTS IN CASE BY ONE OF JUDGES, LEBEL PRESENTED ARGUMENTS ON REPPAS' BEHALF FOCUSED ON FOLLOWING THEMES:

(A) REPPAS WAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH BACOPOULOS IN CRIME.

(B) REPPAS TOTALLY IGNORANT OF MALAGASY POLITICAL SCENE, INTERNAL BUSINESS SITUATION, AND LANGUAGE.

(C) REPPAS DID NOT TAMPER WITH AGM BOOKS.

(D) REPPAS HAS GAINED NOTHING FROM AFFAIR AND HE AND HIS WIFE, IN FACT, HAVE LOST OVER \$300,000.

(E) ASSETS OF AGM, I.E., PLANT, STILL IN MADAGASCAR AND CAN STILL BE USED.

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(F) REPPAS WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NEWSWEEK ITEM CONCERNING

AGM AFFAIR.

(G) REPPAS WAS PROMINENT UPSTANDING CITIZEN IN CALIFORNIA WITH NUMEROUS REFERENCES, INCLUDING JUSTICE CLARK (LETTER READ TO COURT).

(H) IN SUMMATION LEBEL SAID REPPAS HAD ALREADY SUFFERED LOSS OF HONOR, LIBERTY, AND MONEYSAND SHOULD NOW BE SET FREE.

3. GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY THEN RESTATED GOVERNMENT'S CASE IN BRIEF 6-MINUTE SPEECH FOLLOWED BY PROCUREUR GENERAL WHO SPOKE FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES, PRIMARILY REFUTING LEBEL'S POINTS AND ADDING THAT MADAGASCAR HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY FOREIGNERS AND MUST NOW BE FIRM AND PUNISH SEVERELY THOSE WHO DO WRONG.

4. DECISION IS SCHEDULED TO BE RENDERED ON MARCH 4, 1975.

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS:

(A) LEBEL'S PRESENTATION WAS VIGOROUS AND WAS LISTENED TO ATTENTIVELY BY JUDGES. REPPAS IN GOOD SPIRITS.

(B) EVIDENTLY NO MEMBER OF PRESS PRESENT.  
MENDENHALL

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** CASC, MA, (REPPAS, GEORGE S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006